

**Committee of the Whole**  
**January 10, 2024**  
**Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology**  
**1605 Wentworth Ave.**  
**Calumet City, IL 60409**  
**MINUTES**



**1. Welcome/Roll Call**

President Stepp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call:

**Present:** Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson **Absent:**

**2. Communication/Public Comment—none**

**3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend**

- A. CAT Center HVAC Unit—There have been serious problems with the system, and it is taking a great deal of money to keep it going. Lead times for new systems are extensive and the current system can be replaced at a lesser cost. The roofing project came in under budget and there were nine bidders--will bring to January meeting for approval. The HVAC system is being done on an emergency basis which allows the district to move forward without the bid process. Most rooftop units have a 15-20 year lifespan and the team is working on a grant and developing a replacement plan for 74 different rooftop units which will be spread out over multiple years.
- B. Building Usage Report—in packet
- C. Student Safety Survey Discussion—Dr. Whitten shared the overview of the district survey results. Each campus reviewed their results, and the overwhelming response is safety issues are related to walking to/from school. Highlighted suggestions: offer self-defense classes, better traffic patterns, especially at South (superintendent will reach out to police departments for assistance), remind parents quarterly or the semester about traffic pattern, redraw road lines in parking lots, better lighting at North, especially after evening games, have a meeting with bus drivers/company to talk about expectations, and meet with students who say they don't feel safe and determine reasons why—especially if there are community issues.

**4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson**

- A. Upcoming Drivers Education Fees Hearing—Will be asked to set hearing for February to align with fee approval.
- B. FMLA Overview—Documents that are provided to staff were provided to the Board.
- C. Annual Financial Report FY22/23 Review—The auditor reviewed the documents stating the district earned an unmodified opinion which is best in auditing standards. The net fund balance increased \$6.9 million and the AFR profile was 3.9 out of 4, which is very good.

**5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard**

- A. Summer School Programs—Assistant Superintendent Szuba reviewed the offerings and added the district no longer has ESSER money to offer for free but some programs are funded through local funds because they are important. Information will be distributed to 8<sup>th</sup> graders as soon as possible.

**6. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman**

- A. Suspension Reports Discussion—Asst. Supt. Whitten shared/reviewed data summary to date and reviewed the suspension determination processes and how administration looks at each situation noting that every campus follows progressive discipline. Suspensions are

no more than three days. It was noted by the assistant principals of building control that for the first time in many years they are seeing groups of students fighting each other and there is a very different dynamic of students and parents. Discussion included interventions at each campus and it was noted that 10-15 years ago, there were thousands of days of suspension. Having a conflict resolution specialist is invaluable and it was suggested that the board considers one for each campus. Supports are consistent across the buildings, but student behavior can change at any time at any building and the community situations also impact behavior. Having an adequate number of quality deans' assistants would make a difference. Parents often report having difficulties with their students and don't know what to do and don't have community resources to support them. It is important to recognize that each campus will always be different.

The student handbook is up for review and Member Newman will attend the meeting. Anita will invite the entire board. Discussion included if it would be helpful to have presenters from the IASB conference come to the committee meeting to look at handbook/policy side of discipline and give feedback. Overall consensus was to put their information on the February CoW meeting agenda and discuss it with possible approval in March.

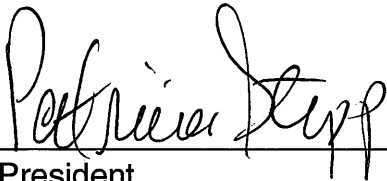
7. Closed session for purposes of personnel—superintendent contract  
*I move to recess to closed session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, superintendent's contract. This motion, made by Wilson and seconded by Member Townsend, passed.*

**Upon Roll Call Vote:**

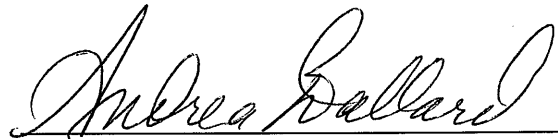
**Ayes:** Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Townsend, Stepp, Terrazas, Wilson **Nays:** none **Absent:**

8. **Adjourn**

*Member Newman moved, seconded by Member Townsend that the Board of Education adjourn to at 8:36 p.m. Upon voice vote, motion passed.*



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President



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Secretary



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Recording Secretary